

ELOQUENT SPEECHES

Argument Before Coal Strike Commission Begun.

A SENSATIONAL PASSAGE

Former Congressman Charles Brumm Excites President Baer by Criticizing Delay in Denying Statement About Murders.

(By Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., February 9.—Argument for and against the demands of the union anthracite mine workers, which will continue before the Coal Strike Commission for the next six days, was begun today, when the miners, through Daniel J. McCarthy, of Hazleton, made the opening argument. Mr. McCarthy was followed by former Congressman Brumm, of Minersville, who made a general argument, and Henry Demarest Lloyd, of Chicago, who confined his efforts to the question of recognition of the union and yearly trade agreements.

The operators will begin their argument tomorrow, continuing three days and closing with George F. Baer, president of the Reading Company. Then Clarence S. Darrow, of Chicago, the principal counsel for the miners, will take up the argument Saturday, summing up the case and answering President Baer. President Mitchell is expected here during the week, but whether he will address the commission depends upon developments.

Among those in the court-room was President Baer, of the Reading Company. With the exception of the opening day in Washington last October, it was his only visit to the commission so far. As soon as the hearing opened Mr. McCarthy began his argument. He made a strong plea for a twenty per cent. increase in the miners' wages, saying the commission was a "board of directors" and the expenditure of a great amount of money. He closed with a glowing eulogy of John Mitchell.

MR. BAER EXCITED.
Mr. Lloyd was followed by former Congressman Charles Brumm, who occupied the time up to the adjournment. His argument was principally in support of the demand for the recognition of the union. Mr. Brumm was directing many of his remarks at Mr. Baer, who was sitting close to him. The Reading Company president gave him close attention, and when Mr. Brumm said in an oratorical flight Mr. Baer had denied in the eleventh hour that he had ever said that twenty-one murders were committed in the coal region, that he did not deny it until the statement was made to go out to the country and received full effect, Mr. Baer jumped up and exclaimed: "Wasn't it I, did I ever say it?"

The suddenness of the interruption evidently did not disturb Mr. Brumm, who replied: "One moment, I will answer this."

Mr. Baer was not satisfied, and said with great earnestness, "You said I did not deny it until the eleventh hour. What do you mean?"

"I said you did not deny it until the eleventh hour," Mr. Baer replied. "Oh!" "If you had waited," said Mr. Brumm, "you would not have asked the question."

"What is it you want to make out? That I did not say it," persisted Mr. Baer.

Mr. Brumm: "No, I didn't say that you did say it."

"That is different," said President Baer, as Chairman Gray rapped for order and requested Mr. Brumm to proceed with his argument. Mr. Brumm, however, took a parking shot, and retorted to Mr. Baer: "I am certain that you never denied it until the time what appeared in the newspapers."

FIRE INVADERS

TREDEGAR WORKS

(Continued from First Page.)

and then the response was prompt. Meanwhile the blaze had developed from a spark into an enveloping sheet of flame. Beginning in the center of the frame sheds, it swept in all directions, and was soon roaring high into the pitchy sky. The glare was so intense that small blocks around, and several hundred people stumbled over cinder banks or pitched aside beside the canal, trying to get to some vantage ground.

On the bank, the department did uncommonly good work. The approach to the building was circuitous and difficult, but it was at last made. The engines had to pull as best they could along the river bank and come in from the rear. How the firemen got there, some of them never knew. At all events, they were there, and for a few moments they had some of the most scorching work they have ever had to do. One man was injured slightly and they proceeded to have no idea whether his name could be recovered.

BURNING FIERCELY.
By the time the first stream of water sizzled its way through the flaming timber, the building was a hopeless wreck. From one end to the other, it was enveloped and there was utterly no possibility of doing anything beyond saving the surrounding structures. The big sheds were like tinder. The fire spread like a furnace. The interior of the place glowed like a furnace. Now and again a section of the building would go down, sending up a cloud of embers.

About 1 o'clock the fire had spent its force. With the exception of a small end—where gas was made—the building was gone and the machinery was an entire wreck. The firemen worked on and after while gas things under thorough control. The excitement was over, but for some time longer the glow was there yet in the distance.

To add to the confusion of the conditions the fire communicated itself to the planks along the railroad track, bridging the canal and hose, which at best didn't seem to work particularly well, was in imminent danger of serious injury. Several planks had to be ripped up. The joints under them were burning.

LOSS AND INSURANCE.
It was impossible last night to secure any accurate estimate of the loss or any detailed statement of the insurance. Colonel Archer Anderson, president of the Tredegar Works, and several others connected with the company were seen, but they refused to have no idea whether the value of the property destroyed. All they could say was that the damage would be fully and entirely covered by insurance.

Only a rough idea of the extent of the

loss, therefore, can be given. The entire department known as the spike mills, in which also was a portion of the horse-shoe shop, went down. The buildings themselves, while they will probably foot up quite a little item, are comparatively of small importance. The machinery inside is the chief thing, and of this machinery nothing is left that is not a hopeless wreck. There were six or seven mills—rolling mill, spike mills, horse-shoe mills, and other stuff—of great value to a high degree. Certainly, the damage will run up to \$100,000. In all probability it will go considerably beyond, possibly twice that much.

Nobody seemed in a position to speak authoritatively. The policies were placed through Davenport and Company, a member of the firm seen declared that all he could say was what Colonel Anderson had said before—that the loss was fully covered by insurance.

MANY MEN OUT OF WORK.
A distressing feature of the fire is the fact that it throws out of employment at least a hundred employees. While the fire was burning one of the men stood off a little ways deploring his fate. He was not alone in his trouble. A large number of the men, as said, were in the place when the fire broke out. The men mostly thanked him for not being caught inside. But it will be rather a dreary homecoming they will have this morning.

The buildings will, of course, be re-erected and equipped again throughout. Colonel Anderson indicated that it might be night. So far as could be judged, the spike department is the only thing that suffered. A storage shed near by caught once, but was easily put out.

ABOUT THE WORKS.
The Tredegar Iron Works are the largest and oldest in the South, and occupy twenty-three acres on the river bank. The buildings cover some seventeen acres. From 1,200 to 1,600 hands are employed at the place.

The works were established sixty-eight years ago. The president of the company at this time is Colonel Archer Anderson.

WILL CURE YOU OF RHEUMATISM ELSE NO MONEY IS WANTED.

Any honest person who suffers from Rheumatism is welcome to this offer. I am a specialist in Rheumatism, and have treated more cases than any other physician. I think for 15 years I made Cures. I have treated with different drugs, but I have never found one that will cure the world for something better. Nine years ago I found a costly chemical in Germany which, with my previous discoveries, gives me a certain cure.

I don't mean that it can turn bony joints into cartilage again, but it can cure them at any stage, completely and forever. I have done it fully 100,000 times. I know this so well that I will furnish my remedy on trial. Simply write me a postal for my book on Rheumatism, and I will mail you an order on your druggist for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure. Take it for a month at my risk. If it succeeds, the cost is only \$5.00. If it fails, I will refund the money. I don't expect a penny from you.

I have no samples. Any mere sample of this Rheumatic Cure must be destroyed to the world of doctors. I use no such drugs, and it is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that even in the most difficult, obstinate cases. It has cured the most stubborn Rheumatism. I have never found another remedy that would cure Rheumatism. I will send you the order. Try my remedy for a month, as it can't harm you anyway. If it fails it is a failure. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 288, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

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FUTURE IS BRIGHT NOW

Trigg Yards Certain to Resume If Creditors Agree.

BIG MEETING YESTERDAY

Action of Those Having Claims Infused New Hope—Million Dollars Waiting For the Remaining Creditors to Sign—All Will Know Soon.

The prospect for the early resumption of work by the Trigg Ship-Building Company were never so bright as they are today.

The meeting yesterday of the Richmond creditors and their unanimous action has put new hope in the hearts of all connected with the enterprise, and it is believed that if their example be followed the opening of the yards for work may almost be counted on the fingers of two hands.

The meeting of the Richmond creditors was held in the offices of the company, and \$12,000 out of the \$63,000 owed in Richmond was represented. The plan of settlement was explained to be that the company would pay 33.3 per cent. of the claims in cash and the remainder in the common stock of the reorganized company. The creditors were asked to come forward and sign this agreement, as it insured the early resumption of work at the plant. The Richmond committee, consisting of Messrs. Boyd, Hawes and Sittler, explained to these gathered there every detail of the plan and every ground for the hope of reorganization, keeping nothing back. The creditors appreciated their frank manner and saw that their interests were being protected. At once they signified their willingness to accept the plan of settlement, and soon the last one had endorsed it with his signature.

One gentleman, speaking of the meeting afterwards described it as a "fine feast."

IN HANDS OF CREDITORS.
A good deal yet remains to be done. But if the creditors act promptly, Mr. Boyd thinks that it may all be finished by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Richmond creditors whose claims amount to about \$10,000 were not at the meeting yesterday. These are to be reached at the earliest moment possible. Much depends on the promptness with which they agree to the plan of settlement. Two or three of them objecting might have the effect of breaking up, or at least greatly delaying the reorganization and the resumption of work. A committee was appointed to see these creditors, and explaining the plan, get them to agree to it. The gentlemen of this body are Messrs. Levin Jones, of the Southern Railway Supply Company; George W. Brown, of Baldwin & Brown; Ellis, of the Smith-Courtney Company, and Lip-hart, of the Richmond Pattern Works. They will spend to-day and to-morrow in doing the work assigned them. As soon as the signatures are obtained the papers will be taken by one of the directors of the present company to the North. The claims of these creditors are estimated to be about \$300,000, and it is understood that two-thirds of these creditors have expressed a willingness to accept the plan. The other third have been sounded and are believed to be favorable.

MILLION DOLLARS READY.
Mr. Boyd confirmed the recent statement of this paper that \$1,000,000 of new money had been subscribed, and said that the papers were ready to be signed. He said that the gentlemen of this body accepted the settlement. This money would come from individuals in New York and not from any trust, he said, and would be ample for the maintenance of the yards. He expressed the utmost confidence in the success of the venture. When asked who would be the officers in the reorganized company he said it was impossible to tell. The new directors would decide this. He said he was not at liberty to give the names of the New York investors as yet.

It will not be more than ten days before the people will know when the yards will resume work. It is learned that the promise of new work has been received. This, however, is not all. The plan of settlement is to be agreed to by the creditors to agree to the plan of settlement.

Damage to the Amount of More Than Five Thousand Dollars is Done.

The Old Dominion Ship Factory, Lewis Frank & Sons, proprietors, located at No. 27 North Third Street, was seriously damaged by fire last night. The loss is estimated at between \$7,000 and \$10,000, fully covered by insurance.

How the fire originated is a mystery, but it is supposed to have caught on the second floor of the building, where there are three stories in height, from a live electric wire. The blaze was discovered by a pedestrian, who turned in the alarm fire alarm station.

The department responded with readiness, and in a short time three streams were playing upon the blaze, with the result that it was soon under control. This, however, was not accomplished until the entire inside of the two lower floors had been gutted.

The upper story, which escaped serious damage, was occupied as a lodge room. The estimated damage will be repaired and business resumed as speedily as possible.

THEY POURED IN ON EVERY TRAIN

Master Painters Begin Their Convention Here To-Day. Excellent Programme.

All yesterday and until late last night delegates to the convention of Master House Painters and Decorators of the United States and Canada poured into the city. They were received by the local committees and given every attention. Last night the lobby of Murphy's, the headquarters, was crowded until a late hour with the jolly delegates.

According to the present arrangement the convention will meet at 10 o'clock A. M. daily in the large room of the Masonic Temple, where will be exhibited things of special interest to architects and builders generally. The business sessions will consume the mornings, and the afternoon and evenings will be devoted to pleasure.

This morning the visitors will be welcomed at Richmond by Mr. J. H. Gallagher on behalf of the local association. Governor Montague will speak for the State and Mayor Taylor for the city.

A reception will be tendered and a lunch will be served to-night at 6 o'clock at Murphy's Hotel. To-morrow afternoon the visitors will visit Lakeside by trolley.

Thursday afternoon the ladies will be given a carriage drive around the city. At night a stag party and smoker will be given at the Masonic Temple, which will conclude Friday night with an entertainment at the Masonic Temple under the auspices of Mr. Polk Miller.

Among the notable members who are now here are Messrs. W. J. Edwards, of Cambridge Mass., president; H. Randolph, of Philadelphia, vice-president; E. W. Brown, Milwaukee; W. Boxter, Hartford; C. C. Carter, Washington; C. B. Forsberg, Dorchester; J. J. Collins, Columbus; A. G. Clark, St. Louis; C. H. Fowler, Philadelphia; Joseph Held, Providence; Joseph West, Baltimore, and others.

The delegates are a solid, business-like body of men, and Richmonders will extend them a warm welcome.

NO IMPROVEMENT IN DR. CURRY'S CONDITION

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ASHESVILLE, N. C., February 9.—There is no improvement in Dr. Curry's condition. He has had a fairly good day, and is reported to-night as resting quietly. Messages of sympathy from President Roosevelt, Secretary Navy, General Wheeler, Dr. Glimmer, Morris, Dr. Jessup and hundreds of others have been received at Fernhurst, the home of Colonel Connally, where Dr. Curry is ill, also through the State Department a medal portrait of the King of Spain, one of the coronation gifts to Dr. Curry.

TO INVADERS THE SOUTH

Virginia Editors Leave for Land of Orange Blossoms.

GUESTS OF THE SEABOARD

This System Gives Press Association a Peep at Flourishing Country Along Lines—Holiday Making—Times-Dispatch Hospitality.

"Gentlemen of the editors and pale pot," or, in other words, the editors of Virginia, the leaders of thought and moulders of public opinion, are being away to the land of unending flowers and the orange blossoms, where, as the guests of the Seaboard Air Line system, they will spend a week of rest and enjoyment.

The party, members of the Virginia Press Association, are traveling in two parties. One left Richmond yesterday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock, the other this morning shortly after midnight. Their object points are Palm Beach, Jacksonville, Tampa, and other places of winter resort in this flowery kingdom. The number of ladies in the company will be a feature enjoyable to all.

SWARMED IN ALL DAY.
The editors, their wives and daughters began to reach the city early yesterday morning, and every train which came in during the day brought its quota.

The Times-Dispatch office headquarters. All came directly here, where they found refreshments for all and good cigars for the gentlemen waiting for them in a suite of reception rooms set apart expressly for them.

Mr. W. S. Copeland, editor of The Times-Dispatch, found pleasure in giving the entire day until late at night in assisting his brother editors of the State in arranging all remaining preliminaries of the trip. He represented the local paper as the host. All regretted much that he could not go, but a recent sorrow made it impossible for him to avail himself of the pleasures of the trip and the company.

PERSONNEL OF PARTY.
Among the Virginia editors and their friends whose faces are turned to the South are:

Rev. James Cannon and Miss Bent, Farmville Methodist Recorder; R. J. Carpenter and wife, Halifax Recorder; Advertiser; W. S. Davis, wife and daughter, Chatham Tribune; B. S. Hume Richmond; H. J. Arrington and W. H. Stevens and wife, Claremont Herald; R. N. Robins and Miss Bessie Robinson, Orange Observer; Dr. Charles M. Edwards and wife, Richmond Medical Journal; Dr. R. H. Pitt, Religious Herald; R. H. Beazley and wife, South Boston News; E. M. Slack and wife, Abingdon Virginian; E. D. Gregory and mother and Mr. Jeter, Bedford Democrat; A. S. Morton and sister, Spectator-Vindicator, Staunton; M. T. Harrison, Bedford Democrat; J. B. Wood and wife, South Boston Times; Misses Lovenshine, Times-Dispatch; Dr. J. M. Hamlet and wife, Melrose Herald; Examiner; C. M. Walker and daughter, Farmville; George W. Warren and W. O. Green, Clifton Forge Review; Fulton Kogley, Bland Reporter; J. L. Gardner, Pulaski News-Review; James Mullin, Richmond Times-Dispatch; F. W. Baker, Southern Churchman; Colesworth Pinkney, wife and Misses Wingo and Armistead, Richmond Times-Dispatch; Mrs. C. A. Hurt, Smithville Gazette; C. B. Campbell and daughter, Pinebluff Herald; Alex. Forward, Wytheville Herald; A. S. Gravelly, Martinsville Bulletin; R. A. James, Danville Register; E. G. Moody and wife, Danville Methodist; B. R. Waddill and wife, Danville Baptist; B. C. Wilson and wife, Lebanon News; C. O. Goodrick, Fredericksburg Star; J. H. Lindsay and wife, Charlottesville Progress; Mrs. D. S. Lewis and Miss Hancock, Spirit of the Valley; W. B. Lewis and L. H. Lewis, Old Dominion Sun, Staunton, and Robert P. Funkhouser and wife, Harrisonburg.

VENEZUELAN TROOPS WINNING VICTORIES

(By Associated Press.)
CARACAS, February 9.—A force of 2,000 men with fifty horses and two guns, under the command of Minister of War General Ferrer, left Caracas this morning in the direction of the seaport Higuera, fifty-five miles east of Caracas. The object of the expedition is to attack a body of 1,500 revolutionists under General Monagas, who are reported to be too feeble to attack the government, but strong enough to devastate the district around Rio Chico, Province of Miranda, sixty miles southeast of Caracas, and daily enter and pillage the town.

Even ardent revolutionists seem to recognize that President Castro is master of the situation.

The correspondent of the Matin, at Caracas, says that Guaitire was captured

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by government troops after eight hours' fighting.

The Government troops captured the town of Guaitire at noon, and are now marching on Rio Chico.

TERRIBLE TURKS MENACING BULGARIA

(By Associated Press.)
SOFIA, February 9.—Having received information regarding Turkey's decision to mobilize two army corps at Adrianople and Monastir, the Bulgarian government to-day addressed representations to the powers, invoking their good offices to Constantinople to procure the cessation of the Turkish military preparations. It is felt here that while Turkey's reinforcement of her troops in Macedonia may be justified, in view of the internal situation and the Austro-Servian military preparations, the mobilization at Adrianople can be regarded only as a menace to Bulgaria. It is stated that the government will refrain from any counter demonstration and only mobilize the Bulgarian Army in case of extreme necessity, it being fully resolved that even a slight conflict with Turkey would mean financial ruin to Bulgaria.

GROVE AVENUE DENIES REPORT

No Truth in the Assertion that a Member Be Asked to Leave.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Grove Avenue Baptist Church last night the report in another paper concerning the withdrawal of a prominent member was brought to the attention of the congregation. The publication was to the effect that a committee of three had been appointed to consider whether or not a certain well known member should leave. The congregation appointed a committee of three to deny the report and to declare authoritatively that there is absolutely no foundation for it.

CHARGES AGAINST GRAVES WITHDRAWN

Mr. Corrie Graves, the young traveling salesman who was arrested Saturday morning on a capias issued by Judge Wellford, of the Circuit Court, charging him with being an absconding debtor, has been released from jail, the Richmond Water Company, who had charged him, having withdrawn their charges.

Mr. Graves states that he is still a resident of Richmond, and had only left the home of his father, in order of securing employment in West Virginia as a traveling salesman.

OBITUARY.

Funeral of Mr. Bowers.
The funeral of Mr. John Bowers will take place from the Second Presbyterian Church, of which he has been a member for over forty years, this afternoon, at 3:30 o'clock.